

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the Commissioner

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Public Hearing – February 25, 2015 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner James Redeker Department of Transportation

H.J. 63 – Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to Protect Transportation Funds & H.B. 6857 – An Act Protecting Transportation Funds

The Department of Transportation would like to thank the Transportation Committee for providing this opportunity to testify in support of the Governor Dannel P. Malloy's proposals to add protections to the Special Transportation Fund.

The resolution would propose a constitutional amendment limiting the use of resources of the Special Transportation Fund (STF) for transportation purposes only, as well as establishing the STF as a perpetual fund and requiring that all sources of funds required to be deposited into the STF continue.

The accompanying legislation mirrors the protections that would be in place with the constitutional amendment, which could not be enacted until after the 2016 elections. This legislation also ensures that future legislation establishing a new revenue stream that is currently not collected by the state could be designated for transportation, deposited into the STF and only used for transportation purposes.

These protections are necessary in order to ensure that all revenues raised for transportation are spent on transportation; however, they will not ensure that we have enough funding to support our diverse transportation system. Increased federal standards and an overall decline in vehicle-miles-travelled by the average Connecticut driver mean motor fuel taxes are not enough to fund our growing transportation needs. In fact, for years Connecticut has transferred funding from the General Fund to the STF due to inadequate funds from traditional sources of revenue deposited into the STF.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (<u>pamela.sucato@ct.gov</u>) or CJ Strand (<u>carl.strand@ct.gov</u>) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.